Bristol, October 17th 1847

My dear Mr. May.

This morning your letter of Sept. 30 arrived announcing the receipt of my letter of Sept. 3rd and also some of previous dates by Mr. Hincks. Of Mr. H's arrival in the U. S. yours was the first account I had received.

I now then address you with a perfect regularity in our correspondence no letters from me being on their way to you.

Thank you for the "World" containing Dr. Montgomery's speech, & also for remitting Lib:. that for May 28.

All your subjects interest me. I wish I could make my Unitn. friends feel a little of the same interest, I am sure it would benefit them as well as the cause.

You are a little too hard on Toyart, tho' he is very provoking. You must remember that in all he says, he speaks with no intimate knowledge of the question. Tho' thinking badly enough of Slavery itself, he does not think it an evil we are called on to grapple with:— he believes, that (for he is told so by American friends, & all that he falls in with,) that the Abol^s. are doing harm, & he therefore thinks it is neither our duty nor our wisdom to annoy the Unit. Ministers of America, & do no good by such conduct to the Slave's cause. And so think a majority of our leading Ministers. I wish you could see a letter from Jos Martineau to Mr. James declining to sign the our Address — R. D. Webb, (to whom I sent it) calls it, "an amazing letter", — but I hope to send you a copy.

Your old acquaintance "Amicus," comes out in to day's "Inquirer." I have not yet read his effusion, but perceive he is going to enlighten the whole Anti-Slavery body, & show how utterly ignorant they are of the subject!! I almost think you have not yet seen Mr. Tagart's "Reply" to my letter in the Inquirer of July 3rd?

With you I felt it a great pity that the French translation of Douglass should be only printed piecemeal in a newspaper, especially as much pains were taken with it, & Miss P. had written it out as "exquisitely" as she copied Dr. Montgomery's speech. (One curious point in her writing is, that her pen runs with extreme ra-pidity) ~~I then~~ Finding however, that no bookseller would undertake the work, I had an estimate made in Paris, & found that 500 copies could be published for £24. — I therefore determined that it should be done, and sent to Mr. J. Olmes. my arrangement to that effect, with the money (for the printer naturally re-quired an advance) hoping that some Anti-Slavery friends here will help to save me from much expense. I have written to Jos. Sturge to ask for a grant from the B. & F. A. S. Soc?, as the purpose is thorough-ly A. S. & devoid of all Abolition politics.

I cannot yet see my way to above £5 assistance; but Miss Porter's uncle, on hearing of what I had done ~~has~~ kindly offered to share with any expense that exceeds what I can obtain by begging.

So much money was raised for Douglass
here in his ransom; - the £150. testi
monial, - besides many private gifts
that people are inclined to give their
money now in some other way.
This detail is only for private informa
tion, but if you would like to send a n
to the Lib: or Stand: and to the follow
effect, I have not the least objection -
~~[illegible]~~ "that the Narrative of
Fred. Douglass, translated into French
by Miss S. K. Parkes of Bristol (E
is in the printer's hands in Paris, and
will be shortly published"
We have about 1300 signatures to the
inst "Address." I wish I had consulted you upon
the best mode of dealing with it: we want
to send it by the November first packet.
Our move has occasioned much dissatis
faction among the more influential pa
of the Unitn. body. I suspect my fanatic
ism - has surprised some who consi
dered me a la old-school conservative
and once, gave me credit for com
mon sense, & safe judgment. I am
not unprepared for some kind of protes

2ndly against the Anti Slavery mania which has got in amongst us. Mr. As-pland wrote me a day or two ago, "that we were retarding the cause in this country, tho' perhaps we might do some good in America." If such be the case I am content to bear my share odium.

Miss Carpenter is really in error in fancying that female signatures would have benefited our Address— It would have damaged it materially in the estimation of our body generally, —would ~~have~~ have given a stronger handle for the objections of our opponents, & I should think, (tho' you know best) would have more weight with the Boston Ministers without, than with the names of women? Miss Carpenter, full of benevolent exertion, associates much with the poorer classes of society, & delights in all that gives them pleasure & makes them of importance. She would have obtained numerous signatures from this class

of persons, but very few from ladies. Now
you must take us, & understand us, as
we are. It is the more educated classes
here that can alone benefit the A. S. move-
ment as regards America; therefore
your wisest friends will avoid any
thing that brings their efforts into con-
tempt with the superior classes, & indisposes them to
unite in the ~~[illegible]~~ A. S. movement ~~cause of~~ My own
more particular or female friends &
relatives with the exception of Miss C.
tho' most devoted to the cause, would not
sign an Address of this kind. It is ~~so~~
unusual with us to do so. I could neither
ask nor wish them to do it. I do not
say that if some remarkable occasion
for petitioning or addressing were to
occur, a really good list of female names might
not be obtained, but right or wrong wise
or foolish, the sentiment of our refined
& educated class of female society is
adverse to the public prominence of
women. We find no fault with your

different customs. I hardly know how women in America could abstain from entering into the A.S. cause. Ladies however here, take the part & interest in A.S. societies. Our good friend Mrs C. too, while always ready to give due credit to other labourers, never likes to be overlooked as one, or to be deprived of her fair share of distinction & approbation. She likes to be a known doer as well as a doer, in good works, and is ~~always~~ usually bent upon carrying out any thing she plans, (& her plans are often admirable) & so incapable of thinking, or supposing any change desirable, that she ~~was~~ is a little apt sometimes, tho' unintentionally, to mislead persons not well acquainted with all the facts, into a greater acquiescence in her judgment, than the case warrants. Pray do not think I say this ill-temperedly: quite the reverse. But your own judgment seems so cool, that I am very desirous of your knowing the precise character of

of those with whom you have to do; fully
aware that you will subject my opinion
to the scrutiny they deserve—

Do not imagine I needed infor-
mation of Mr Garrison's tour to the West.
I saw too much of him not to feel a per-
sonal interest in him. My daughter
Miss Parkes & myself traced his route o
our maps, & thought & talked of him on the days
when the programme of his proceedings
in the Liberator enabled us to know th
he was then ~~on a particular day~~ at Buff
or elsewhere. I was concerned to hear
of his illness, but it was a relief to me ~~us~~
~~while he was ten [illegible]~~ to find
he had been prostrated by fever. I
watched him while he was my guest w
some attention, and it appeared me impro-
bable that his body & mind should both
bear the incessant strain that was on them
without breaking down. My fears, I
confess were more that his mind would
give way.— I trust this late seizure wi
be a hint to him that he is not immor-
tal — in this world at least,—and that
he will henceforth exercise some rigid
self-control both as regards his physical
health, & a wise limit to mental exer
Of the propriety of Douglass's future course, I can
form no opinion. I think (tho' I am

3rd/ not authorized to *say* so, & on no account would like the suspicion to be repeated,) that some of ~~Douglass's~~ his most intimate friends & advisers in Engd. are anxious to detach him from W. L. G. & ~~for~~ wish him to take an independent course perhaps to lean more towards the "Liberty party" than the "Am. A. S. Socy." W. L. G.'s lecturing on A. S. on *Sundays* troubles some of our worthy friends. In this country such a proceeding would not be acceptable, but it may be otherwise with you.

I have lately seen my friend Mr. Hay Macdowell Grant of St. Vincent, a planter & long resident there, whom I have before named to you. He is so sensible, *liberal* humane, & in the best sense of the word *christian*, that I have full reliance upon the correctness of his statements. He confirms the fact which our W. India Merchants have found to their cost, that the Islands generally are in a serious condition as regards *plantation cultivation*

St. Vincent is better off than many but
even there things are bad. The native
negroes will not work more than 6
hours a day. At the Madeira men
work 9h, & well, & contentedly but they
are not numerous; & their immigration
is an expensive process, and the Estates
~~will~~ can not afford to pay for that amount of labour which
will make them more remunerative. The
consequence is, that the Planters draw
largely upon their Merchants &
Consignees at home, & in order to
prevent Ests. from going out of cultivation, these merchants are obliged
to make advances very inconvenient
to them, & without a good prospect of
re-payment. The negroes themselves
are doing well; working only 6 hours
for their Masters, & employing the
rest of their time on their own grounds.
And Mr. G. says, they will continue to
thrive ~~until~~ while the Estates are cultivated at all, but if failure take place
in this, they must then suffer severely.
Now the great secret of their present

serious depression, Mr. G. tells me, is
the equalization of the sugar duties,
— the admission to our markets of
of slave grown sugar, & the consequent
infringement upon the W. I. monopoly.

What I was most anxious to know
was the effect of this reduction of duty
upon the slaves who make the sugar
~~is~~ now so widely consumed here. He says
that it occasions an immense ad-
dition to their sufferings. He learns
from Cuba planters that the impetus
to sugar cultivation has been very
great, that the slaves are worked 16
hours a day, & their losses easily supplied,
& ~~that~~ says it is impossible for West Indians
to contend against such fearful odds.

Some of our earnest A. S. men ad-
vocated the extension of free trade
principles to slave grown sugar.
Others, the "B. & F. A. S. Socy." petitioned
against the measure as increasing slavery

What is your opinion.

I am afraid I must decline the request ~~with~~ which Mrs. Chapman has thought me worthy of having made to me, to write something for the "Liberty Bell." At present I am not in very good health; & were it otherwise, I could not write any thing that would in itself be interesting, & I possess my no name. or distinction that would confer any value upon of a personal nature upon any thing I wrote independently of its own merit. So I think I have made out a good case for not adventuring upon the ground of auth ship.

Mr. Nicholls's manner is forbidd & I fear he is not a good lecturer. but h is an excellent & sensible man. H worldly circumstances are low. I hope will make something in America.

The present Ed. of the Inquirer is not Vernon. I got inserted into the No. for Oct. Philanthropist's letter, & Mr. Quincy's remarks. I wrote an editorial notice but that inserted is mine sadly mutilated. I much like Mr. Quincy's editing of the "Liberator."

The letter you last sent me was prepaid.

Like yourself, I am writing within an hour of the time when my letter ought to be posted (Monday Oct. 18th 5 P.M.) and must forbear touching on new subjects.

One box of Bristol articles by a sailing vessel from Liverpool for the Boston Bazaar is gone. In it my daughter has put some copies of the "Authors" for your little girl.

Miss Carpenter has all the merit of the trouble occurred this year by the collecting & sending the articles. We have been much absent from home, & having other respects felt desirous of having respite for one year from this work.

My daughter has written a note to Mrs Chapman which she I have been obliged to remove from its envelope to keep my letter within 0z ½. Will you enclose it in another?

And now my dear friend I must say farewell.

Ever faithfully & sincerely Yours

J. B. Estlin

I have not yet read the Liberator which came yesterday, & am looking forward to it as a treat this evening. One is for Oct 1st!!

(Show Phillips what I said, on the 3d sheet, of West Indian, &c.)

BRISTOL
OC 18
1847

Revd. Samuel May,
care of
Samuel May Esqr.
Boston, U.S.

Recd. Nov. 8.

~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~

OC19

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